

**REMARKS****Rejection of Claims 5-7 Under 35 USC § 103(a)**

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 5-7 in view of JP102877735 in combination with Kolstad et al, US 6,114,495. The Examiner's position is that Kolstad et al. does not teach adding an inert component, therefore the inert content thereof is 0% and reads on the claims. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Claims 5-7 are directed to a multifilament yarn that is a polylactic acid resin with specific properties requiring a combination of the following :

- the fiber made from the polylactic resin is linear in structure;
- the polylactic resin contains at least 98 mole % of the L-isomer;
- the polylactic resin has an inert content of less than 3%;
- the amount of residual tin is less than 30 ppm; and
- the amount of the residual monomer is less than 0.5% by weight.

It is because of this combination of properties and not only an inert content of less than 3% that the claimed multifilament yarn with excellent crystalline orientation resulting in excellent spinning-processability. The spinning process and extension process can be accelerated, and the deleterious reduction in viscosity by depolymerization upon spinning can be suppressed, which lead to stability in yarn size in the longitudinal direction. It is the combined properties, the decrease in residual Sn content, and the residual monomer content together with the linear structure of the fibers that provided the increased heat resistance of the polylactic resin, the improvement is the spinnability due to this heat resistance and the increase in the homogeneity of the yarn.

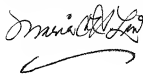
A careful review of Kolstad shows that the reference is silent with respect to inert materials. It may be implied that the resin of Kolsatd et al has an inert content of 0%. However, the data in Kolstad et al. shows the yarn size in a longitudinal direction, which cannot be considered to be uniformly linear in structure. To one of skill in the art, it is clear that this reference does not recognize that the resin of Kolstad et al resulted in the lack uniformity of the

yarn fiber in the longitudinal direction and that improvement in the property of the multifilament cannot be obtained by the teachings of Kolstad et al. The reference is not at all concerned with the uniformity of the resultant fiber in the longitudinal direction and did not teach, describe or suggest how to improve the uniformity of the resultant spun and drawn fiber.

JP 102877735 did not teach or suggest the improvement obtained by controlling all of the factors in the claimed invention: controlling the inert content to less than 3% together with controlling the content of the L-isomer of the linear lactic acid monomer, the Sn content to 0-30 ppm, the monomer content to 0 to 0.5% to obtain a resin with the proper viscosity and crystal orientation. Thus, the invention as claimed cannot be regarded as obvious under the law in view of JP10287735, or Kolstad or a combination of these references.

Applicants believe that the claims as amended are allowable and an early allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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